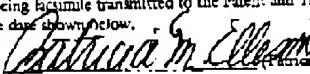


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Edwin M. Ellison

Docket No.: 373722001822  
(PATENT)  
Client Ref.: A007 CIP3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of  
Edwin FONTECHA and Mohammad Z. KHAN

Application No.: 09/904,163

Group Art Unit: 2874

Filed: July 11, 2001

Examiner: M. Connelly-Cushwa

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD TO  
VERTICALLY ROUTE AND CONNECT  
MULTIPLE OPTICAL FIBERS

AMENDMENT

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JUL 18 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated May 20, 2003 (Paper No. 5), for which a response was due on August 20, 2003. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in light of the remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

pa-793156

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